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**MAILED**

**MAY 24 2010**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

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Gainesville GA 30506

In re Patent No. 6,988,229  
Issue Date: January 17, 2006  
Application No. 10/073,830  
Filed: February 11, 2002  
Attorney Docket No.

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**ON PETITION**

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed March 3, 2010, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired at midnight January 17, 2010, for failure to pay the 3½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

/JoAnne Burke/  
JoAnne Burke  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions